

## Tone Exercise

**DIRECTIONS:** Circle the word that expresses the tone present in each passage.

1. It's crucial that America immediately start paying more attention to its children. Every day, violence, crime and substance abuse among the young continue to rise, while children's participation in wholesome activities continues to diminish. Parents, teachers, and our nation's leaders need to work harder to make the care and guidance of children a priority in this country.

- a. uninterested
- b. mocking
- c. urgent

2. The traditional Scottish dish called *haggis* consists of several "appetizing" ingredients. It's made from the chopped-up lungs, heart, and liver of a sheep, mixed with onions, seasonings, suet (the fatty tissue around sheep kidneys), and oatmeal. Hungry yet? These ingredients are then boiled in a bag made from the sheep's stomach. It's a shock this "delicious" dish hasn't caught on in America.

- a. angry
- b. caring
- c. sarcastic

3. In the past, farmers would often make newborn calves swallow a magnet. This was to attract metal objects, such as nails, staples, tacks, and wire bits, that the cow might ingest while grazing. Once the animal was slaughtered, the butcher would remove the magnet and debris and sell the metal for scrap.

- a. objective
- b. warm
- c. bitter

4. At least half the world's six thousand languages are dying because they are no longer taught to children. Each time the last speaker of a language dies, a precious culture vanishes. Lost with those cultures are treasures of knowledge about nature and irreplaceable records of a unique way of life.

- a. self-satisfied
- b. regretful
- c. furious

5. The word "sabotage" comes from a French word "sabot," which is a heavy boot or shoe worn by workmen. During the Industrial Revolution, mechanized mills were introduced in France. Many workers, angry at being replaced by machines, began throwing their shoes into the gear mechanisms to wreck, or "sabotage," the engines.

- a. straightforward
- b. disbelieving
- c. embarrassed

6. There is little doubt in scientists' minds: Earth is under threat from an unseen enemy from outer space—an asteroid that's going to crash into our world, causing great damage and loss of life. The one thing scientists are not sure of is when this impact will occur. But most agree it is just a matter of time. Even as you read this sentence, the enemy object is hurtling toward you.

- a. neutral
- b. tolerant
- c. alarmed

7. Although soap operas today are associated exclusively with television, this type of program actually originated on the radio. Radio soap operas, named after the early sponsors of the shows—soap companies—differed from their television counterparts in a few ways. Radio soaps were only fifteen minutes long, compared with the one-hour length of today's TV soaps. Another difference is that the characters in radio soaps were generally older and less sultry than the ones on TV and the radio shows focused on "romances" rather than steamy affairs.

- a. curious
- b. informative
- c. scornful

8. Mike Hayes, an enterprising freshman at the University of Illinois, came up with a creative idea to solve his tuition and college expenses problem. He wrote to a *Chicago Tribune* columnist, asking him to request that each of his readers send Hayes a penny. The columnist, who thought the idea fun and novel, published a column explaining Mike's request. In less than a month, Hayes' clever idea had generated the equivalent of 2.3 million pennies—\$23,000!

- a. irritated
- b. admiring
- c. accusing

9. The plague known as the Black Death killed about one-third of Europe's population in the 1400s. In order to ward off the smell of death and disease during this time, many people carried flower petals in their pockets. Children created playful songs describing what they saw. The familiar tune "Ring around the rosie, pocketful of posies, ashes, ashes, we all fall down" illustrates the progression of the disease. First, the victim would break out in a fever, causing rosy cheeks. Then, someone with flowers in his or her pockets would place the flowers on the sick person and in a circle around his or her bed to counter the smell. Finally, after turning a pale ashen color, the victim died.

- a. detached
- b. distressed
- c. critical

10. A recent study showed why seeing food makes us hungry. The researchers discovered that when people were allowed to see and smell their favorite foods, a deep-seated brain structure was activated, and the subjects reported feeling hungrier. According to researchers, this capacity to get hungry simply by seeing and smelling food evolved because, to survive, early humans had to want food whenever they found it.

- a. lighthearted
- b. shocked
- c. matter-of-fact